

definite shape he was replaced by a bishop who headed a permanent ward organization. When sufficient wards were organized in an area they then functioned under the direction of a stake president who headed the stake comprising the independent wards.

In order to make the first settlement in what came to be Wasatch County, the pioneers readily adopted this three-tier pattern. The group of settlers who had taken up land claims in Provo Valley met in the winter of 1858 and made plans for an organized settlement. William Meeks was chosen to take charge of "affairs and regulations" and in April 1859 "a company was formed and a start was made."¹

William Meeks resigned his office in the fall of 1860 and William M. Wall, who had been herding cattle in Round Valley, was called to take his place as the presiding elder. He chose as his counselors James Laird and John M. Murdock.²

By 1861 the settlement at Heber had grown so large that Brigham Young ordained Joseph S. Murdock a bishop and sent him to organize and take charge of the Heber Ward.³ Bishop Murdock chose John W. Witt and Thomas Rasband to be his counselors and Henry Hamilton to be the ward clerk. He exercised a dual office in that he presided over the Heber Ward and also served as Presiding Bishop for the whole valley.⁴ About this time the other communities became sufficiently well organized to have Presiding Elders who performed their duties under Bishop Murdock's supervision. John Harvey was appointed Presiding Elder at Center Creek in 1861. In 1862 Sidney Epperson was called to the same office

¹Crook, "History of Wasatch County," *op. cit.*, p. 4

²*Ibid.*, p. 12.

³William Lindsay, "A History of Wasatch County," *op. cit.*, p. 3.

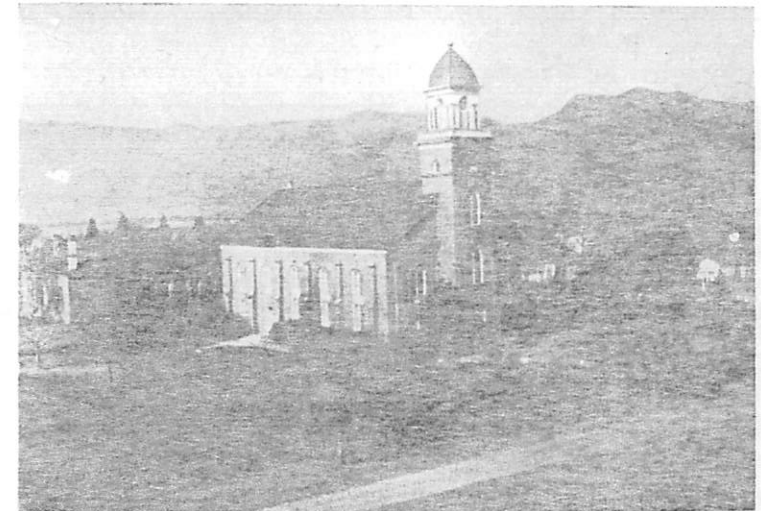
⁴Huber, "A History of Midway Ward," *op. cit.*, p. 2.

to serve the upper settlement on Snake Creek. In 1864 David Van Wagonen began to perform the same function for the lower settlement. John Watkins, who lived in Midway, became the Presiding Elder for Charleston and traveled there to hold meetings every Sunday.

Joseph Murdock proved to be an able administrator and particularly efficient in dealing with the Indians. His kindness and generosity was respected by all. The Indians were particularly impressed because he had reared a young Indian girl and later married her.⁵

Abram Hatch replaced Joseph S. Murdock as Presiding Bishop in December of 1867. He had been sent to Provo Valley by Brigham Young, and his arrival on

⁵William Lindsay, "A History of Wasatch County," *op. cit.*, p. 8.



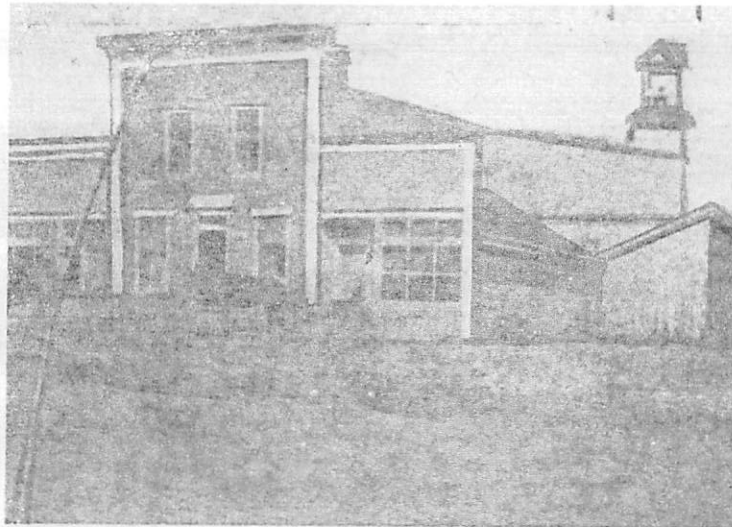
Stake Tabernacle

all of these attempts were made in a three-year period and all of them were fruitless. No one had any stock. The stock of goods in the log cabin trade was all had to be hauled many miles to Heber.

The event that was to change this picture was the contract. In 1862 Sam Hilday took over the mail route and government mail contract between Joseph, B. Smith, and Sacramento, California. Salt Lake City was the center of the route and the hub for the branch lines that extended to the towns and mining camps of Southern Utah, Idaho, Nevada, and Montana.

Every ten or twelve miles along the route were stations where hay and grain were kept to supply the change of horse and mule teams for the stagecoach.

¹Neff, *op. cit.*, p. 734.

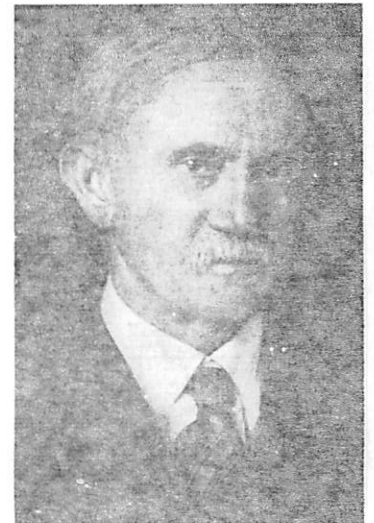


Charleston Coop.

In 1863, John W. Witt of Heber was given a contract to supply oats to the stations as far east as Green River. Under this contract, companies of men with teams and



Nymphus Murdock



Frederick O. Buell

wagons periodically set out from Heber to supply stations. There was work for everyone with a wagon. According to John Crook:

This was the beginning of good times for Heber. Plenty of money rolled in. Grain kept raising until it reached \$3.00 a bushel for oats and \$5.00 for wheat. Merchandise was high also. Stoves were from \$150 to \$200 each. Sugar and nails were \$1.00 a pound. Factory and prints cost \$.50 to \$1.00 per yard. A good wagon cost \$300 and everything else in proportion.⁴

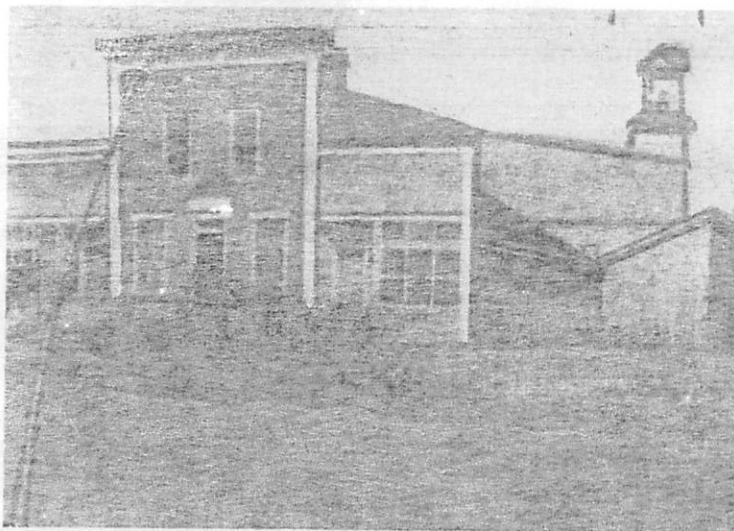
⁴Crook, "History of Wasatch County," *Wasatch Wave*, December 14, 1889.

All of these attempts were made in a three-year period and all of them were fruitless. No one had any money. The stock of goods in the log cabin trade was small and had to be hauled many miles to Heber.

It was at that time that was to change this picture was the stagecoach. In 1862 Ben Holliday took over the route and government mail contract between Salt Lake, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. He was the master of the route and the hub of the line that extended to the towns and mining camps of Southern Utah, Idaho, Nevada, and Washington.

Every ten or twelve miles along the route were stations where hay and grain were kept to supply the changes of horse and mule teams for the stagecoach.

"Nash, op. cit., p. 784.



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⁴Crook, "History of Wasatch County," *Wasatch Wave*, December 14, 1889.